

DR. MATHES' REPORT.

Kaneohe, March 30, 1884.

To His EXCELLENCY W. M. GIBSON,
President of the Board of Health.

DEAR SIR:—According to your request I herewith transmit a *resumé* of the work that I have done in my district since my appointment as District Physician to the District of Koolapoko.

My appointment dates from the 7th of February, 1883. The period of my activity up to the present date has been one year and seven weeks.

During that period I treated five hundred and forty-three (543) cases of disease, classified as follows:

Surgical Cases.....	95
Of the Digestive System.....	100
Of Genito-Urinary System.....	38
Of Respiratory System.....	116
Of Nervous System.....	31
Of Organs of Special Sense, of Eye.....	16
Of Ear.....	6
Diseases of the Skin.....	62
General Diseases.....	79

Total.....543

The whole number of visits made was about one thousand three hundred, or an average of twenty-four to each case.

The number of mixtures of medicine dispensed to these cases was one thousand two hundred.

The number of deaths was exceedingly small; but seven cases of death falling to my observation.

This, however, does not represent the mortality of my district, as more than 1.1 per cent. have died. Few cases of death came under my observation simply because a large number of natives will persist in calling ignorant kahunas to their bedsides, often in preference to a foreign physician, and the mortality among these cases is frightful, especially where kahunas treat children. Whenever I have been called I have always been gratified at the beneficial effect of drugs upon natives when the directions of the physician are perfectly carried out.

The sooner the natives cast off superstitious thralldom upon which the power of the kahuna is based, the better it will be for them. If the Board of Health adopt measures tending to a correction of this abuse it will accrue to the benefit of the Hawaiian people.

The most pressing need in this district is a suitable office or dispensary, where the Government physician can reside and have his head-quarters.

Some time ago the people of my district gave evidence of such a want, and expressed their feelings in an urgent petition to the Board of Health, asking that this defect be remedied. The abode of a physician in relation to some particular family, constantly open to the observations of this family, robs it of the privacy which every patient demands, or at least desires. Furthermore, to obtain suitable accommodations, as matters now stand in my district, is an impossibility.

It would be thankfully remembered both by the residents of Koolapoko and by the undersigned if the Board of Health move in this matter at the earliest possible opportunity.

Hoping that this report will meet with your approval,

I am very respectfully yours,
GEO. L. MATHES, M. D.

Statuary for New South Wales.

The studio of Signor Fontana, in Globe-place, King's-road, Chelsea, is just now enriched by three of the most notable works of that sculptor, intended to grace the halls of the Government offices at Sydney. These are full-sized figures in Carara marble of the Queen and the Prince of Wales, and an alle-

gorical representation of New South Wales. The principal statue in order of precedence is that of Her Majesty wearing her crown and the Royal and Imperial robes of State. The left hand holds a scroll, the right bears the sceptre. The bust is emblazoned with the riband of the Garter and the Star of India. The artist has succeeded in producing not merely a true likeness, but has invested the statue with an air of majestic dignity and repose. The Prince of Wales is represented in the uniform of a field marshal, his left hand resting on the hilt of his sword, his right hand holding the marshal's baton. Here also the sculptor has been completely successful in suggesting the mein and bearing of his Royal Highness, and in carrying out with fidelity and effect the details of the uniform. In the third statue Signor Fontana, untrammelled by the limits of portraiture, has presented a masterpiece worthy of the highest range of art. A female figure in the full bloom of youthful maturity, and classically draped, is crowned with a garland of the Australian flora, surmounted by an imaginative and poetical suggestion of the rays of the rising sun. Her left hand holds a wreath; her bare right arm encircles a trophy of plenty, indicated by fruits and cereals. On the plinth at her feet lies recumbent a young ram in all the native glory of a curly fleece of white wool. On the opposite side the mineral wealth of Australia is typified by a large nugget. The statues are each 6 ft 6 in in height, and have been skilfully finished. The commission is executed for the Government of New South Wales, through Sir Saul Samuel, Agent-General; and the result, while testifying to the loyalty and spirit of the colony, will take high rank on the rolls of modern sculpture.

Killed by Loneliness—A Lesson in Etiquette.

I had a friend whose vaulting ambition hurled him by chance into an abyss of despair. He came to New Mexico and sought seclusion as a tender of sheep. He was intelligent, well educated, gentle; principles of morality had been inculcated in his mind at an early day, and all who knew him accorded him a desire to be honest and virtuous. Yet he went the way of many. Some squatters found him by the roadside one morning dead. Pinned to his coat was a card which bore simply the expression, "It is lonely here." Yet the tourist feels, when first he sees this country, that he could live here always, satisfied even though alone.

I was given a lesson in etiquette by a Mexican young lady I met in the train. I chanced to be the only man in the sleeping car when it drew out from El Paso, and after an introduction by the conductor, to whose charge the young lady had been committed, she and I became quite well acquainted. "I saw you eating an orange on the depot platform," she said. "In Mexico that would be considered unmannerly. There it is wrong to eat anything outside a house, even candy. And I noticed when Mr. Romero gave you a Mexican match you threw it away after using but one end. The other was still serviceable, and you should have returned the match with your thanks. If you hand one a cigar or a cigarette to light with, you must take a whiff from it after it has been returned to you, though it may be so short it will burn your fingers." All this I received with good grace, for my young lady was but 10 years old.—*Chicago Times.*

In Fiji the experience of England is essentially different from that which it has passed through in many other Crown colonies. Generally speaking, colonies of this class have been for many years a burden to the exchequer; whereas Fiji, even in its infancy, has proved self-supporting. Governor Des Vœux's estimates for the ensuing year show a total revenue of £158,738, and an expenditure of £155,047. This is very satisfactory, seeing that the revenue is not exceptionally large, but promises to increase steadily. There has been a great development in the sugar industry. Sir John Gorrie lately stated that the largest sugar mill in the world had been erected in Fiji, and an order had been given for another of the same size. The export of sugar

for last year amounted to 3,000 tons, but it was expected that the quantity would be doubled in 1884. Before the annexation took place it was believed that the staple production of the islands would be cotton, but it now seems probable that Fiji will become a richer Mauritius, and produce sugar on a large scale. One remarkable fact is that there is not a single English soldier, except the Governor's aid-de-camp in the colony. There are a few inspectors and sergeants of police, but the Government relies for the maintenance of order upon a native constabulary force, at an annual cost of a little more than two thousand pounds. It is also satisfactory to learn that five times as much public money is spent in maintaining hospitals and an efficient medical staff as in keeping up gaols. Although Mr. Des Vœux shows a determination to check a too sanguine view of the prospects of the colony, he yet anticipates that the annual value of exports, which up to 1880 never got beyond £177,000, will in 1883 exceed £300,000, and in the following year, by another bound, reach nearly half a million sterling.—*Daily News.*

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